

Stanford PAN facility on a BioApplied® peptide synthesizer, HPLC purified and verified by amino acid sequencing. Pure peptide was lyophilized and stored at -20 °C. The peptide was soluble in aqueous solution and used in PBS and RPMI 1640 at indicated concentrations.--

In the claims:

Amend claims 2-5, 9-13, 20-23, 27-30, 33, 36, and 37 as follows:

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--2. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Hsp47-related immunoprotective polypeptide comprises the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AX₄X₅X₆R (SEQ ID NO:1) wherein X₁ is V, L, A or T, X₂ is L or H, X₃ is S or V, X₄ is D or E, X₅ is Q, K or R, and X₆ is L or V.

3. (Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said Hsp47-related immunoprotective polypeptide comprises the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AEQLR (SEQ ID NO:29), where X₁, X₂ and X₃ can be any amino acid.

4. (Amended) The method according to Claim 3 wherein X₁ is V or A, X₂ is L or H and X₃ is S or V (SEQ ID NO:2).

5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein said polypeptide comprises the sequence AVL₁SAEQLR (SEQ ID NO:3).

9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said Hsp47 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

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- (a) the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:6);
 - (b) an amino acid sequence having at least about 70% amino acid sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of (a);
 - (c) an immunoprotecting fragment of (a) or (b); and
 - (d) an immunoprotecting variant of (a) or (b).

10. (Amended) The method according to Claim 9 wherein said immunoprotecting fragment of Hsp 47 comprises the amino acid sequence AVL₁SAEQLR (SEQ ID NO:3).

11. (Amended) The method according to Claim 9 wherein said immunoprotecting variant of Hsp 47 is a conserved variant of the sequence AVL~~S~~AEQLR (SEQ ID NO:3).

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12. (Amended) The method according to Claim 9 wherein said immunoprotecting variant of Hsp 47 comprises the sequence AAHV~~S~~AEQLR (SEQ ID NO:7).

13. (Amended) The method according to Claim 8 wherein said Hsp47 polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:6);
- (b) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes to a nucleic acid that encodes the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:5);
- (c) an immunoprotecting fragment of (a) or (b); and
- (d) an immunoprotecting variant of (a) or (b).

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20. (Amended) The method according to Claim 19 wherein said Hsp47-related immunoprotective polypeptide comprises the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AX₄X₅X₆R (SEQ ID NO:1) wherein X₁ is V, L, A or T, X₂ is L or H, X₃ is S or V, X₄ is D or E, X₅ is Q, K or R, and X₆ is L or V.

21. (Amended) The method according to Claim 19 wherein said Hsp47-related immunoprotective polypeptide comprises the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AEQLR (SEQ ID NO:29), where X₁, X₂ and X₃ can be any amino acid.

22. (Amended) The method according to Claim 21 wherein X₁ is V or A, X₂ is L or H and X₃ is S or V (SEQ ID NO:2).

23. (Amended) The method, according to Claim 19, wherein said polypeptide comprises the sequence AVL~~S~~AEQLR (SEQ ID NO:3).

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27. (Amended) The method according to Claim 26 wherein said immunoprotective polypeptide comprises the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AX₄X₅X₆R (SEQ ID NO:1) wherein X₁ is V, L, A or T, X₂ is L or H, X₃ is S or V, X₄ is D or E, X₅ is Q, K or R, and X₆ is L or V.

28. (Amended) The method of Claim 26 wherein said immunoprotective polypeptide comprises the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AEQLR (SEQ ID NO:29), where X₁, X₂ and X₃ can be any amino acid.

29. (Amended) A method according to Claim 28 wherein X₁ is V or A, X₂ is L or H and X₃ is S or V (SEQ ID NO:2).

30. (Amended) A method for identifying cells which bind to a polypeptide comprising contacting said cells with a polypeptide comprising the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AX₄X₅X₆R (SEQ ID NO:1) wherein X₁ is V, L, A or T, X₂ is L or H, X₃ is S or V, X₄ is D or E, X₅ is Q, K or R, and X₆ is L or V;

wherein said polypeptide further comprises a detectable label, and
detecting cells which bind said labeled polypeptide.

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33. (Amended) An Hsp47 polypeptide comprising the sequence AVLSAEQLR (SEQ ID NO:3) and a label.

36. (Amended) An antibody which specifically binds to an Hsp47 polypeptide epitope comprising the sequence AX₁X₂X₃AEQLR (SEQ ID NO:29).

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37. (Amended) An anti-idiotypic antibody to a polypeptide comprising the sequence AVLSAEQLR (SEQ ID NO:3).--